

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGRE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 140774

FOR BERGLAND AND HATHAWAY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, RP

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S WFC SPEECH

FOLLOWING IS REVISED TEXT FOR SECRETARY'S WFC SPEECH WHICH
TAKES INTO ACCOUNT COMMENTS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS:

1. IT IS AN HONOR TO REPRESENT MY GOVERNMENT AND THE
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AT THIS SESSION OF THE WORLD
FOOD COUNCIL.
2. I KNOW ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY JOIN ME IN PAYING TRIBUTE
TO SAYED MAREI, OUR FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, WITHOUT
WHOSE LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO
BRING OUR HOPES AND PLANS TO THIS SESSION. HIS EXCELLENT
WORK WILL CONTINUE--I KNOW--UNDER OUR NEW PRESIDENT--
SECRETARY TANCO, WHOSE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE IN
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HIS OWN COUNTRY HAS BEEN WIDELY RECOGNIZED.

3. THIS IS THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WORLD FOOD
COUNCIL. I NEED NOT REMIND YOU OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS
MEETING. THE USEFULNESS OF THIS SESSION MAY WELL DETERMINE
THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. I HAVE COME HERE TO
CONTRIBUTE WHAT I CAN TO MAKE THIS COUNCIL A SUCCESS.
4. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REVIEWED THE MAJOR

ISSUES CURRENTLY ON THE NORTH-SOUTH AGENDA AND HAS BEGUN TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN PRIORITIES. WE BELIEVE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO FOCUS DIRECTLY ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS WHO LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY. THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IS ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS AS WELL AS NATION-STATES. OUR OBJECTIVE MUST BE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A BETTER AND MORE SATISFYING LIFE. WE MUST DESIGN POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, AND ASSISTANCE WHICH FOCUS ON MEETING THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF THE POOREST PEOPLE. FOOD IS AMONG THE MOST BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, AND FOR THIS REASON THE UNITED STATES REGARDS THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL AS VITAL.

5. WE ARE HERE TODAY TO AFFIRM OUR COMMON COMMITMENT TO THE OBJECTIVE OF ELIMINATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. I KNOW PRESIDENT CARTER SHARES MY BELIEF THAT ALL NATIONS-- REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES IN CULTURE, ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, OR LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT--HAVE A COMMON GOAL OF PROVIDING ADE- QUATE FOOD FOR THE WORLD'S POPULATION. UNLESS THIS GOAL CAN BE ACHIEVED, AND UNLESS WE, AS PEOPLE AND NATIONS WORK- ING TOGETHER, CAN ASSURE AN ADEQUATE DIET FOR ALL PEOPLE, OUR OTHER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GOALS BECOME MEANING- LESS AND WILL NEVER BE ACHIEVED. A WORLD WITH MILLIONS OF HUNGRY PEOPLE CAN NEVER BE A WORLD OF PEACE AND PROGRESS.

6. THUS, FOOD MUST BE AN AREA OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
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, NOT INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT. PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND MAL- NUTRITION MUST BRING FORTH THE BEST OF OUR NATIONAL POLITI- CAL COMMITMENTS. FOOD MUST NOT BE REGARDED AS A WEAPON OR AS AN ISSUE WHICH DIVIDES US IN EITHER PURPOSE OR ACTION.

7. PRESIDENT CARTER WISHES THE DELEGATES TO THIS WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SUCCESS IN THEIR DELIBERATIONS, KNOWING THAT ALL OF YOU AND YOUR LEADERS SHARE OUR COMMITMENT TO A COMMON TASK.

8. THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL IS THE HIGHEST POLITICAL BODY DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH ISSUES OF FOOD. IT IS THE FORUM WHERE THESE ISSUES CAN BE DEFINED AND DISCUSSED AND COURSES OF ACTION RECOMMENDED TO APPROPRIATE NATIONAL AND INTER- NATIONAL BODIES FOR DECISIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION.

9. THIS COUNCIL SHOULD BE A FORUM WHERE ISSUES OF MAL- NUTRITION, HUNGER, AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CAN BE DISCUSSED OPENLY AND FRANKLY WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, ECONOMIC SYSTEMS OR LEVELS OF ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES COMES TO

THIS CONFERENCE IN THIS SPIRIT.

10. THIS COUNCIL WAS CREATED DURING A TIME OF CRISIS. SUPPLIES OF FOOD WERE SCARCE, AND PRICES WERE HIGH. THESE HIGH FOOD PRICES ARE NO LONGER WITH US. DURING THE LAST YEAR GRAIN STOCKS HAVE INCREASED RAPIDLY AND GRAIN EXPORT PRICES HAVE FALLEN SHARPLY. BUT LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE STILL ARE UNDERNOURISHED AND, IN THE SENSE, THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS STILL IS WITH US.

11. THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S VERY POOR LIVE IN THE RURAL AREAS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THEREFORE, THE

BASIC PROBLEMS OF POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND HUNGER CAN
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BE SOLVED ONLY THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AGRICULTURE OF THESE COUNTRIES. EFFORTS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION IN POOR COUNTRIES MUST BE CONTINUED AND EXPANDED. ALSO, SERIOUS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE DISTRIBUTION MUST BE MADE TO ASSURE THAT FOOD ACTUALLY REACHES THE UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE.

12. WE WELCOME THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION TOWARD OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. THAT CONFERENCE REAFFIRMED THE NEED FOR CONCERTED EFFORTS BY ALL COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE SATISFACTORY RATES OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT CONTRIBUTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A ONE BILLION DOLLAR INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THE CONFERENCE ALSO TOOK ACTIONS WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY RESERVE OF GRAIN WITHIN THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AND WILL LEAD TO IMPROVEMENT IN THE AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL AGRICULTURAL INPUTS. AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED ON OTHER SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS WHICH NEED NOT BE DEBATED AGAIN IN THIS SESSION. MY GOVERNMENT REGARDS THE RESULTS OF THIS CONFERENCE AS SIGNIFICANT AND HELPFUL IN THE TASK WE ARE CONTINUING IN THIS MEETING.

13. THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRAMS AIMED AT PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974 REQUIRES THAT THE UNITED STATES DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOCUS ON HELPING THE POOR MAJORITY IN THE POOREST COUNTRIES. THE UNITED STATES BILATERAL AID PROGRAM AWAITING FINAL ACTION BY THE CONGRESS CALLS FOR MORE THAN 700 MILLION DOLLARS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. ALSO, THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO CONTRIBUTE 800 MILLION

DOLLARS PER YEAR THROUGH 1980 TO THE WORLD BANK'S

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION. ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF THESE FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED ON A CONCESSIONARY BASIS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IN THE MOST NEEDY COUNTRIES. FINALLY, THE UNITED STATES HAS PLEDGED 200 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

14. INCREASED PRODUCTION IS CENTRAL TO LONG-TERM WORLD FOOD SECURITY. BUT FOOD SECURITY ALSO REQUIRES ASSURANCE THAT ADEQUATE SUPPLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE EVENT OF SHORTFALLS IN PRODUCTION CAUSED BY WEATHER OR OTHER ADVERSE EVENTS. SUPPLIES SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO PREVENT EXTREME SWINGS IN PRICES THAT CREATE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP FOR THE POOR IN ALL NATIONS AND FOR ALMOST ALL IN POOR NATIONS.

15. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE WORLD FOOD SECURITY, THE UNITED STATES ALREADY HAS TAKEN ACTION TO ESTABLISH A FOODGRAIN RESERVE. THIS RESERVE WILL BE ACCUMULATED DURING THIS PERIOD OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES AND LOW PRICES FOR RETURN TO THE MARKET DURING PERIODS OF SHORT SUPPLIES AND HIGH PRICES. WE COMMEND THE SIMILAR ACTIONS BY OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHERS.

16. BUT FOOD SECURITY IS NOT THE SOLE OBLIGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OR A FEW NATIONS. THE WORLD SHOULD NOT WANT ITS FOOD SECURITY TO REST IN THE HANDS OF A FEW NATIONS. RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORLD FOOD SECURITY MUST BE SHARED WIDELY. THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES HOPES THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL SOON CAN LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A COORDINATED SYSTEM OF NATIONALLY-HELD RESERVE STOCKS. WE BELIEVE A WORLD FOOD-SECURITY SYSTEM SHOULD INCLUDE THESE FEATURES. FIRST, A RESERVE STOCK MECHANISM MUST BE DESIGNED TO REDUCE WIDE FLUCTUATIONS AROUND THE LONG-RUN TREND IN MARKET PRICES. PRICE INDICATORS PROBABLY SHOULD BE USED TO TRIGGER RESERVE ACTIONS. SECOND, THE COST

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OF RESERVE STOCKS MUST BE SHARED AMONG BOTH EXPORTING AND IMPORTING NATIONS. SPECIAL PROVISIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO ASSIST POOR NATIONS IN MEETING THEIR SHARE. AND, THIRD, WE MUST ACHIEVE REDUCTIONS IN TRADE BARRIERS FOR GRAINS WHICH WOULD FACILITATE ADJUSTMENTS IN CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN TIMES OF EXTREME SURPLUS AND SCARCITY.

17. WE RECOGNIZE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE A

MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SCHEME FOR ASSURING WORLD FOOD SECURITY. BUT WE MUST FIND MEANS TO OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES. THE WORLD NEED NOT SUFFER ONCE AGAIN THE HARDSHIPS OF THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS OF 1972-74. WE

MUST FIND THE WILL AND THE WISDOM TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY IN WHICH THE BURDENS OF MAINTAINING THE SYSTEM ARE EQUITABLY SHARED. WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT EASING OF SUPPLIES TO INSURE THAT WE DO NOT MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.

18. IN ADDITION TO REDUCING WIDE FLUCTUATIONS IN COMMERCIAL PRICES AND ASSURING THAT GRAIN IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE IN COMMERCIAL MARKETS, THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THAT FOOD AID MUST PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING MANY NATIONS TO MEET THEIR BASIC FOOD REQUIREMENTS.

19. THE UNITED STATES REGARDS FOOD AID AS ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT. FOOD AID PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, NOT THE SURPLUS DISPOSAL NEEDS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THE UNITED STATES NOW IS SEEKING TO IMPROVE ITS OWN FOOD-AID PROGRAMS IN SEVERAL WAYS. WE WANT TO MAINTAIN FOOD-AID LEVELS EVEN IN YEARS OF TIGHT SUPPLY. FOODGRAIN RESERVES ARE ONE MEANS TO DO SO. WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN OUR TOTAL LEVEL OF FOOD AID AT THE UNITED STATES SHARE OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE TARGET OF 10 MILLION TONS. WE WANT TO MAKE
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GREATER USE OF FOOD AID AS A DEVELOPMENTAL TOOL THROUGH LONGER-TERM SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND BY USING FUNDS GENERATED UNDER CONCESSIONARY FOOD AID PROGRAMS FOR AGREED UPON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. WE ALSO ARE REVIEWING WAYS IN WHICH FOOD AID CAN MAKE A MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE POOREST NATIONS. I SHOULD ADD THAT THE UNITED STATES RECENTLY AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO 125,000 TONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD RESERVE WITHIN THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AS PART OF OUR COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS.

20. I MENTION THESE INITIATIVES TO YOU NOW TO DEMONSTRATE THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ELIMINATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. WE INVITE ALL NATIONS TO JOIN WITH US TO MOVE SWIFTLY TOWARD THAT GOAL. I MUST ADD THAT EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CAN BE EFFECTIVE ONLY IN COMBINATION WITH COMMITMENT AND INVESTMENTS BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES.

21. THIS MEETING OF MINISTERS IS AN UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

WHICH WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MISUSE. WE MUST FULFILL OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE HUNGRY OF THIS WORLD. WE MUST INSTILL A SENSE OF RENEWED DEDICATION AND COMMON COMMITMENT SO THAT NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WILL STRENGTHEN THEIR EFFORTS TO SOLVE THIS MOST FUNDAMENTAL

PROBLEM OF MANKIND. WE MUST SET FORTH THE DIRECTIONS FOR CONCERTED EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE HUNGER FROM OUR WORLD.

22. IN SUMMARY, I BELIEVE WE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS MUST RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO THE HIGH GOALS SET FORTH BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE OF 1974. WE MUST ASSURE THAT THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SERVE THEM DIRECT THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS.

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23. I TRUST THAT, DURING THIS SESSION, THE COUNCIL WILL DEDICATE ITSELF TO THIS PURPOSE.

ALTERNATIVE DRAFT REFLECTING MORE DIRECTLY BRZEZINSKI MEMORANDUM OF JUNE 15 WILL BE SENT TO YOU TOMORROW SO THAT YOU CAN CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO DRAFTS. WHITE AND WILHELM. P.S. IN PARAGRAPH 10, LAST SENTENCE, READ "IN THIS SENSE." CHRISTOPHER

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